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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 5 January 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

A new year has begun and the Palestinian people and their leadership continue to face an unrelenting barrage of repressive, illegal and destructive measures by Israel, the occupying Power.

In addition to the ongoing colonization of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, gross human rights violations, the seizure and destruction of homes and properties, the arrest and detention of thousands of civilians and an inhumane blockade on more than 1.8 million of our people in the Gaza Strip, Israel, the occupying Power, has now also resumed the theft of Palestinian tax revenues in direct retaliation for the legitimate, peaceful steps taken by the Palestinian leadership in the pursuit of justice and for the purpose of protecting the Palestinian people and advancing the realization of their rights, including to self-determination and freedom.

The "withholding" of Palestinian tax revenues — funds collected on our behalf by Israel and which Israel is obliged to transfer to us according to signed agreements — constitutes a blatant act of theft and of collective punishment. In this regard, we wish to underscore that these tax revenues constitute the core of the budgetary funding for our governmental institutions, including for the payment of salaries to civil servants, and thus completely undermine the effective functioning of institutions, including in terms of education, health, public safety and sanitation. Here we must recall the obligation of the occupying Power, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure the well-being of the civilian population under its occupation, an obligation that Israel is gravely breaching as it impedes and harms the well-being of the Palestinian civilian population through countless such illegal policies and actions.

The announcement by the Government of Israel that it is withholding tax revenues in response to Palestine's recent rightful accession to several international

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conventions and treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, proves that this illegal, punitive action is also being taken in direct retaliation against our Government and against the Palestinian civilian population, in breach of international humanitarian law, which prohibits such reprisals. Moreover, we reiterate that such an action constitutes an act of piracy for which Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable.

We thus reiterate our urgent appeal to the international community, including the Security Council and all relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations system, to uphold its responsibilities to address this illegal situation in all its manifestations. This year, 2015, as we approach almost a half century of this belligerent Israeli military occupation, the international community cannot stand idly by while an entire people suffers such relentless oppression and crimes, including war crimes, and the denial of its most basic human rights, including to liberty and independence, and while the very foundations of international law are being undermined.

We urge States Members of the United Nations to redouble their efforts, individually and collectively, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and consistent with the relevant United Nations resolutions, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all of its violations and to compel its compliance with the law. At the same time, we appeal for the necessary support for Palestine's peaceful, diplomatic efforts to realize the rights of the Palestinian people and salvage the prospects for justice and a lasting peace, which continue to be gravely threatened by Israel's illegal actions.

Despite the recent setbacks in this regard, particularly due to the regrettable outcome in the Security Council on 30 December 2014, we reaffirm our full commitment to peace, as well as to international law, as demonstrated by the recent accessions by Palestine, and reaffirm our resolve to continuing all legitimate political and legal efforts aimed at ending the occupation, achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace that guarantees the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and fulfilling the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our 533 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 December 2014 (A/ES-10/669-S/2014/947), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador,
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/671–S/2015/68

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Security Council

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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 29 January 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your attention and, through you, the attention of the international community to the extreme hardships and suffering being endured by the Palestinian people under occupation in the State of Palestine, as Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its gross human rights violations, collective punishment and breaches of international humanitarian law. At this time, we are compelled to highlight the critical condition of Palestinian children, who are being subjected to escalating repression and acts of aggression, in breach of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Fourth Geneva Convention and other provisions of international law, resulting in a tragic situation of widespread suffering, trauma and loss of childhoods.

In particular, the situation of Palestinian children detained and imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power, is a matter of urgency requiring immediate attention and redress. The occupying forces continue to harass and attack Palestinian children in violent raids on towns, villages and refugee camps, at checkpoints and in peaceful demonstrations and continue to carry out pre-dawn raids on the homes of families, seizing children in the dead of night, intensifying the trauma for both child and parents. It is also a routine practice of Israel to detain Palestinian children for extended periods of time without access to parents or lawyers and to subject children to forced interrogations, leading to confessions made under duress, and to beatings, solitary confinement and other forms of psychological and physical torture, as well as to military court trials. Regarding the systematic trial of Palestinian children in Israeli military courts, a report entitled "Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations" issued by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in February 2013 underscores that: "It is understood that this is the first and only juvenile military court in operation in the world".

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Here, we draw attention to the imprisonment of a Palestinian girl, Malak al-Khatib, age 14, who was seized by Israeli occupying forces on 31 December 2014 while walking home from school in the village of Beitin near Ramallah. She is now the youngest Palestinian female held by Israel. The girl was handcuffed and blindfolded upon arrest and was interrogated without the presence of her family or legal counsel and was detained for three weeks prior to her trial, on 21 January, by an Israeli military court. The court, which tried young Malak while her hands and feet were shackled, sentenced her to two months in prison and imposed a fine of $1,500 for allegedly "throwing stones", "possessing a knife" and "blocking a main road", all charges that her family denies. This travesty of justice is but one example of such deplorable acts by Israel, the occupying Power, which is deliberately and directly targeting the Palestinian child population, gravely violating their human rights and denying them and their families the protections of international law.

We condemn in the strongest terms such criminal Israeli actions against the Palestinian people, including children. Regrettably, despite the 2013 UNICEF report, which confirmed that Israeli practices of detaining, imprisoning and abusing Palestinian children amount to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment" in violation of international law, and similar reports by other human rights and humanitarian organizations, including Israeli ones, the occupying Power continues these illegal practices with zero accountability, ruining thousands of Palestinian lives and families.

Approximately 300 Palestinian children are now being held captive in Israeli jails, and a total of at least 1,266 Palestinian children were detained by the occupying forces in the West Bank, including in Occupied East Jerusalem, during 2014, with the majority between the ages of 12 and 15. Yet, it is well known that children as young as five years old have also been detained by Israeli soldiers, and just Sunday, 25 January, a 10-year-old Palestinian boy, Mohammed Afif Khweis, was assaulted and seized by occupying forces in the neighbourhood of Al-Tur in Occupied East Jerusalem. According to UNICEF, in the past decade, Israel has detained "an average of two children per day". Moreover, it has been documented that around 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by Israel since the year 2000, with the number of child detainees increasing by 87 per cent over the past three years in specific.

We call on the international community to condemn this deplorable situation and to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately desist from such crimes and violations and abide by its legal obligations. All Palestinian children must be released from Israeli captivity and we call also for the release of the rest of the over 6,800 Palestinians, including all women, ill persons and elected officials imprisoned or detained by Israel and for urgent redress of the inhumane conditions of their captivity until their release. The failure to hold Israel accountable for these systematic human rights violations and grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the transfer of prisoners outside of the occupied territory, is only fostering greater impunity, which must be brought to an end.

At the same time, we draw attention to the crisis of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip. The eight-year Israeli blockade and devastating impact of the Israeli military aggression of July and August 2014 are affecting every aspect of Palestinian life, deepening the vulnerability of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, more than half of whom are children. We recall with great sorrow that at least

506 Palestinian children were killed by the Israeli occupying forces, constituting 20 per cent of the civilian death toll, and more than 3,000 children sustained injuries, many permanent and scarring them for life. Moreover, at least 1,500 children were left orphaned by this criminal war, inflicting on them unimaginable pain, anguish and helplessness and increasing the need for their assistance and protection.

We also recall that more than 110,000 people were rendered homeless by the Israeli aggression, which caused the destruction of and damage to thousands of homes, including over 96,000 refugee homes. More than half of the homeless are children and they and their families are suffering miserable conditions in makeshift shelters or prefabricated housing or even in the rubble of their homes during the cold, rainy winter months, with flooding and lack of adequate heating, electricity and water compounding the problems and misery. As stated by Robert Turner, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Director of Operations in the Gaza Strip, "People are literally sleeping amongst the rubble, children have died of hypothermia ... People are desperate and the international community cannot even provide the bare minimum — for example, a repaired home in winter — let alone a lifting of the blockade, access to markets or freedom of movement."

The rising hunger, poverty, isolation and deprivation of Palestinian children in Gaza are cause for despair as well as alarm. We are deeply concerned by the decision of UNRWA to suspend, owing to a lack funding, its cash assistance programme for families in Gaza to repair damaged and destroyed homes or for rental subsidies for the homeless. This will gravely impact needy Palestinian families and exacerbate their plight at a time when they are in desperate need of assistance and protection. We note that, to date, UNRWA has received only $135 million in pledges from the international community, leaving a shortfall of $585 million required for immediate needs. We renew our appeal to the international community to follow through with the generous pledges made at the Cairo Conference, stressing the urgency of such assistance to help to alleviate the immense suffering being endured by Palestinian children and their families under this inhumane Israeli blockade and occupation.

In closing, we reiterate our call on the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold the responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant resolutions to address this grave and deepening injustice. Immediate action must be undertaken to address human needs and allay human suffering, including in respect of the vulnerable child population in Palestine, as well as to stem the ongoing deterioration of the situation on the ground and to offer a political horizon forward. This is urgent for averting the further destabilization of the situation, with many foreseen and unforeseen consequences in this regard, as well as for salvaging the diminished prospects for peace and providing hope at a time of widespread hopelessness.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 534 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 January 2015 (A/ES-10/670-S/2015/4) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council

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2 February 2015

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 2 February 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

As the Security Council remains sidelined vis-à-vis the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to exploit the international community's inaction by persisting with its illegal policies and practices with impunity. In particular, the Israeli Government continues its insidious colonization of the Palestinian land that it has belligerently, illegitimately occupied since June 1967, in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

There is no difference — whether through periods of peace process or periods of unrest and conflict, Israel has never ceased its settlement activities in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. In words and in deeds, every single Israeli Government has actively carried out this illegal settlement campaign, openly entrenching the occupation in every way. The latest such step was taken on Friday, 30 January, when it was revealed that the occupying Power has decided to move forward with the construction at least 450 new settlement units in various areas throughout Occupied Palestine, including in East Jerusalem.

Despite the widespread condemnation and calls for cessation, Israel continues expropriating Palestinian land and property, constructing and expanding its colonial settlements to which it has transferred hundreds of thousands of Israeli settlers, constructing a massive wall and thereby severely fragmenting the Palestinian land, forcibly transferring thousands of Palestinian civilians and planning and constructing other infrastructure to serve the illegal settlements, including segregated Israeli-only roads. Cumulatively, this illegal and destructive campaign has not only cast serious doubts on the prospects for the two-State solution, but also given greater viability to the inevitability of a one-State outcome.

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While recalling the many Security Council resolutions directly addressing this crime, including resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980) and 478 (1980), the failure of the Council in this contemporary period to send a firm message to Israel that such settlement activities will not be tolerated and that it will be held accountable for such breaches has undoubtedly emboldened Israel to continue its crimes without fear of consequence.

It is high time to stop this impunity. It is time for the international community to act in a manner consistent with its clear position regarding this conflict and, specifically, Israeli settlement activities. Actions must be taken to uphold the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice. The Council must be at the forefront of this effort, acting in line with its duties under the Charter of the United Nations to contribute to the pacific settlement of this conflict, which remains a potent source of instability, tension and violence and a threat to international peace and security.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the continued killing and injury of Palestinian civilians by the occupying Power. The Israeli occupying forces continue perpetrating violent military raids and attacks against unarmed, defenceless civilians and firing at Palestinian fishermen off the coast of the Gaza Strip, endangering lives and repeatedly causing death and injury. Also, extremist Israeli settlers continue to terrorize the Palestinian people, committing daily acts of violence, destruction and intimidation and frequently causing civilian casualties, including children.

The latest victim of such brutality was a young Palestinian, Ahmed Al-Najjar, age 19, who was shot and killed by the Israeli occupying forces on Saturday, 31 January 2015, in the village of Burin near the city of Nablus. On Sunday, a 28-year-old man who was working as a photographer for the Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem, was injured after being run over by an Israeli settler in Al-Khalil. This was followed by a deliberate attack by another Israeli settler today, 2 February, who struck a vehicle belonging to the Palestinian security services, injuring seven officers.

Also today, an Israeli settler shot and injured a 17-year-old Palestinian boy, Mohammed Yousef Burqan, while he was tending his herd of sheep in the Silwan neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem, which has witnessed increased and more vicious attacks by extremist settlers. Indeed, Israeli settlers have been so emboldened by the lack of accountability, especially in the wake of the kidnapping, killing and burning alive of 16-year-old Mohammed Abu Khdeir in June 2014, for which no person has been prosecuted, that they have even tried to kidnap Palestinian children as young as 7 years of age in Occupied East Jerusalem.

It is evident that these Israeli violations and crimes will only continue and escalate in the absence of any real effort by the international community, including the Security Council, to hold Israel accountable and compel compliance with international law. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held to the same standards as all other States and cannot continue to be absolved of its legal obligations. Moreover, calling for peace negotiations without addressing the current circumstances will only result in continued failure of negotiations, as has been the case for more than two decades. Respect for the law must accompany any resumption of negotiations and it is time for the international community to take

action to ensure both, as an integral part of its responsibility towards this conflict and the long-standing goal of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 535 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 January 2015 (A/ES-10/671-S/2015/68) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations